श्री मनोज भट्टाचार्य: सर, आज नहीं, बाद में कभी चांस दीजिएगा.....(व्यवधान)

†شری خان غفران زاہدی : اگر کسی کی موت ہوجاتی ہے تو اس کے پریوار کے آشرتوں کو آپ نوکری دینگے یا نہیں دینگے، یہ سوال ہے۔ "مداخلت".....

†श्री खान गुफरान जाहिदी: अगर किसी की मृत्यु हो जाती है तो उसके परिवार के आश्रितों को आप नौकरी देंगे या नहीं देंगे, यह सवाल है....(व्यवधान)

MR. CHAIRMAN: Question Hour is over.

WRITTEN ANSWERS TO STARRED QUESTIONS

Regional Passport Office, Bangalore

*142. SHRI K.B. KRISHNA MURTHY: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of passport applications/renewal applications received by the Regional Passport Office, Bangalore, from January 2002 to the end of October, 2003;

(b) the average time taken to issue a passport; and

(c) the steps taken to help the people outside Bangalore to get the passports?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI VINOD KHANNA): (a) The number of passport applications/renewals applications received by the Regional Passport Office, Bangalore, from January 2002 to the end of October, 2003 is as follows:

	2002	2003 (Jan. October)
Fresh Applications	100205	92689
Renewal Applications	33275	32015

†Transliteration of Urdu speech.

(b) The average time taken to issue a fresh passport is 6-7 weeks and two weeks for renewal of passport.

(c) One of the major steps taken to help people outside Bangalore to get passports is the Decentralisation Scheme under which passport applications are received at district level in District Passport Cells (DPCs) in all districts of Karnataka other than Bangalore with effect from 2 November, 2003. In addition, passport applications are also received at 28 Speed Post Centres in Karnataka. Further two Passport Application Collection centres are functioning at Gulbarga and Mangalore. Passport Camps and Adalats were conducted at various District Headquarters during the period to expedite the issuance of passports to people outside Bangalore.

Splitting of IOC

*143. SHRI DIPANKAR MUKHERJEE: Will the Minister of DISINVESTMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have decided to consider splitting of Indian Oil Corporation and selling its marketing arm; and

(b) if so, the reason therefore in view of (i) Government's earlier decision of keeping IOC as a flagship company under Public Sector, and (ii) unviability of stand-alone refineries?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI SU. THIRUNAVUKKARASAR): (a) and (b) Government has before it different options to address the situation arising out of the judgment of the Supreme Court dated 16.9.2003 regarding HPCL and BPCL disinvestment.

Second phase of the NHDP

*150. DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY:
SHRI MOOLCHAND MEENA:

Will the Minister of ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have approved the second phase of the